

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 179141

42

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:WHMANGER/LD

9/7/73:23063

APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY

EUR/WE:RDVINE

EUR/RPM:EJSTREATOR

EUR:GSSPRINGSTEEN

NSC:MR. HYLAND

S/S:MR. GAMMEN

----- 052702

R 101619Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

S E C R E T STATE 179141

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BE, XT

SUBJECT: BELGIAN VIEWS OF "YEAR OF EUROPE"

SUMMARY: DURING CONVERSATION WITH SPRINGSTEEN SEPT. 5, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR LORIDAN SAID HE DETECTED PROGRESS IN EUROPEAN PREPARATIONS FOR PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT COPENHAGEN MEETING WOULD BEAR FRUITFUL RESULTS FOR FURTHER US-EUROPEAN DIALOGUE. HE SAID THAT FRENCH APPEARED MORE AMENABLE TO SIGNING DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND THAT JOBERT MAY WELL ATTEND FONMINS CONFERENCE. LORIDAN ADDED THAT GOB WOULD OPPOSE CONVENING OF EUROPEAN SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS DURING PRESIDENT'S TRIP, SINCE PRESENCE OF CERTAIN LEADERS IN BRUSSELS WOULD NOT BE WELCOMED. END SUMMARY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 179141

1. EUROPEAN DELIBERATIONS ON THE "YEAR OF EUROPE" --

AMBASSADOR LORIDAN, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM SEVERAL WEEKS VACATION AND CONSULTATIONS IN BELGIUM, SAID THAT, BASED ON HIS TALKS WITH DAVIGNON AND OTHERS, HE DETECTED SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN EUROPEAN PREPARATIONS FOR PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO EUROPE THIS FALL. THE EC CORRESPONDENTS MEETING LATE LAST WEEK AND THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING SEPT. 5 ARE PRELUDE TO SEPT. 10-11 CONFERENCE OF THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS IN COPENHAGEN. HE FELT THERE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF SUBSTANCE RESULTING FROM THIS GATHERING TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR FURTHER U.S.-EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS, AND ADDED THAT ALL BELGIAN AMBASSADORS TO NATO COUNTRIES WERE BEING CONVOKED IN BRUSSELS WEEK SEPT. 10 TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT THE RECEIPT OF U.S. DRAFT PAPER ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES HAS SPURRED EUROPEAN DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT. AMBASSADOR LORIDAN NOTED THAT THE FRENCH ARE STILL BEING SOMEWHAT OBSTRUCTIONIST IN THESE TALKS, PARTICULARLY IN NATO FORUM, AND ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN TRYING TO FORMULATE A "EUROPEAN IDENTIFY". HOWEVER, RECENT SERIES OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE EUROPEANS HAVE ENHANCED THE CHANCES THAT COPENHAGEN MEETING WILL BEAR FRUITFUL RESULTS. HE NOTED THAT DAVIGNON IS OPTIMISTIC IN THIS RESPECT. LORIDAN DETECTED A CHANGE EVEN IN FRENCH POSITION IN LAST TWO WEEKS: POMPIDOU NOW SEEMS MORE WILLING TO CONCUR IN A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

2. SPRINGSTEEN SAID THAT THE COPENHAGEN MEETING COULD BE REGARDED AS BENCHMARK IN U.S.-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE RECEIVED A WIDE VARIETY OF REPORTS CONCERNING OUTCOME, WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT GIVEN INTENSIVE GROUNDWORK THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE THERE WILL EMERGE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS TO PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION FOR FURTHER DIALOGUE.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, LORIDAN REMARKED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT FONMIN JOBERT WOULD ATTEND COPENHAGEN GATHERING, DESPITE POMPIDOU'S CONCURRENT TRIP TO CHINA. SPRINGSTEEN HOPED JOBERT WOULD ATTEND, SINCE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 179141

HIS ABSENCE COULD PROVOKE SOME AD REFERENDUM PROBLEMS AND CONSEQUENT DELAYS IN EC DELIBERATIONS.

4. PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO EUROPE - LORIDAN STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD OPPOSE CONVOCATION OF A EUROPEAN SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS DURING PRESIDENT'S TRIP, SAYING THAT THE GOB WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PLAYING HOST TO SUCH LEADERS AS PAPADOPOULOS AND CAETANO. HE REASONED THAT

A SUMMIT WAS NOT ALL THAT ESSENTIAL, SINCE PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD HAVE A SERIES OF BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS DURING THE COURSE OF HIS TRIP ANYWAY. WHILE IN BRUSSELS, HE MIGHT JUST AS WELL MEET WITH CHAIRMAN OF EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND COUNCIL ITSELF. LORIDAN FELT THAT WHAT WAS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE WAS NOT THE PEOPLE WHOM PRESIDENT WOULD MEET, BUT RATHER SUBSTANCE OF JOINT DECLARATION THAT HE WOULD SIGN.

5. SPRINGSTEEN ASKED HIM IF THIS BELGIAN STANCE ALSO APPLIED TO THE CONVENING OF CSCE SUMMIT NEXT YEAR, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE PRESENCE OF THESE SAME PERSONS WHOM THE GOB APPARENTLY FOUND OBJECTIONABLE. LORIDAN RESPONDED IN THE NEGATIVE, NOTING THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE WOULD INCLUDE LEADERS OF WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES AS WELL. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM SPRINGSTEEN, AMBASSADOR SAID HE DID NOT DETECT A FURTHER HARDENING OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS PRESENT REGIMES IN GREECE AND PORTUGAL.

6. RETURNING TO THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING LORIDAN OBSERVED THAT MANY PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS WILL NEED TO BE RESOLVED AFTER SEPTEMBER 11. FOR EXAMPLE, HOW AND WHEN TO GET THE EC COMMISSION INVOLVED IN THE U.S.-EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS. SPRINGSTEEN WONDERED HOW WE WOULD BE INFORMED OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' DECISIONS. LORIDAN THOUGHT IT WAS MOST LOGICAL FOR THE DANES TO DO THIS, SINCE THEY WERE, AFTER ALL, HOSTING CONFERENCE.
RUSH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE179141
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WHMANGER/LD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730944/aaaabgcu.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN VIEWS OF "YEAR OF EUROPE"
TAGS: BE, XT
To: BRUSSELS EC BRUSSELS NATO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005